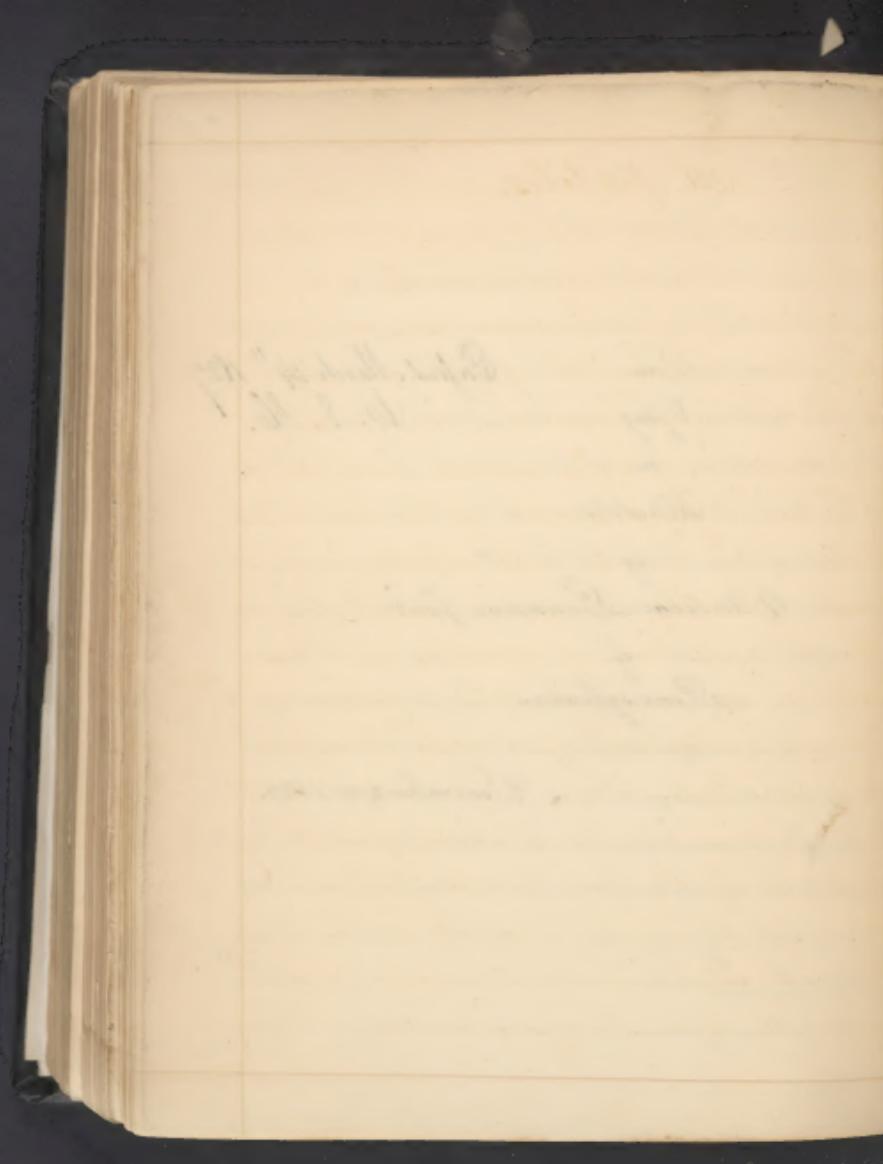


On Dated March 14th 1827
Osay to. S. H.
on
Reptiles
by
Mordecai Lawrence Junc^o
of
Pennsylvania.

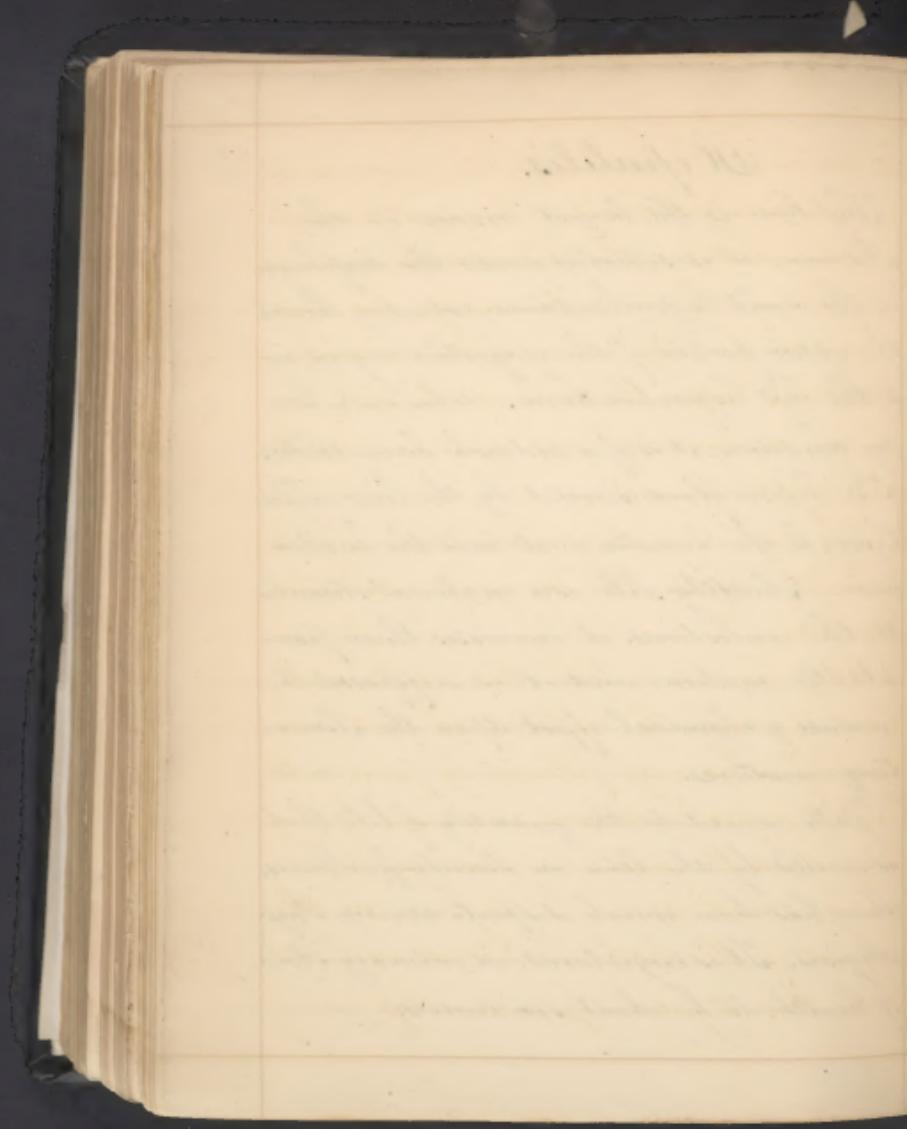
December 3rd 1826.



Hepatitis.

The liver is the largest viscous of the abdomen. it is situated under the diaphragm in the right Hypochondrium, extending through the upper portion of the epigastric region into the left Hypochondrium. When in a healthy condition, it is of a reddish brown colour. The bile, or fluid secreted by the liver, passes through the hepatic duct into the duodenum. Healthy bile is a natural stimulus to the intestines, it increases their peristaltic motion, and it is supposed to produce a chemical effect upon the alimentary mixture.

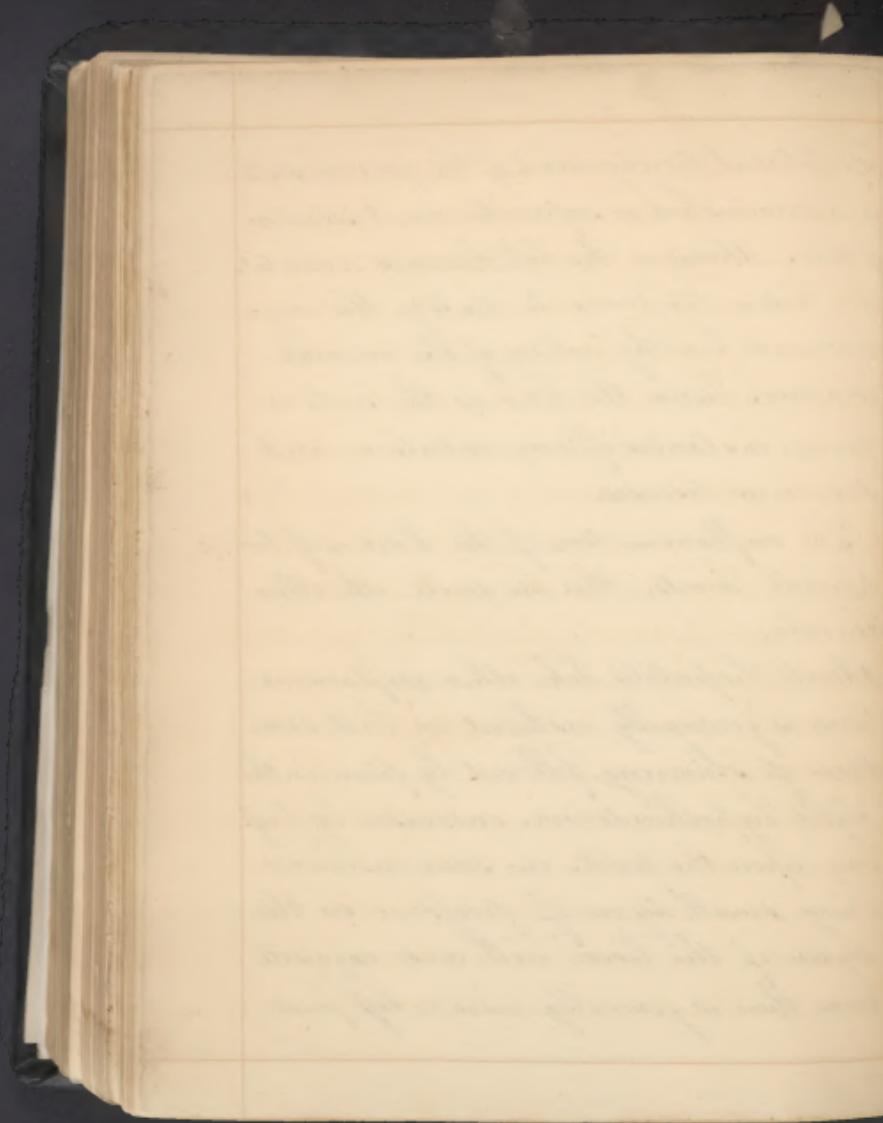
With regard to the quantity of bile that is secreted by the liver in twenty-four hours, there has been much dispute among Physiologists. It is conjectured, in ordinary states of health, to be about six ounces.



Functional derangement of the liver consists in a diminished or supersabundant secretion of bile. Whenever the bile becomes vitiated, it has a tendency to destroy the regular and healthy action of the animal economy. Hence the liver is the seat, in many instances of very extensive and dangerous diseases.

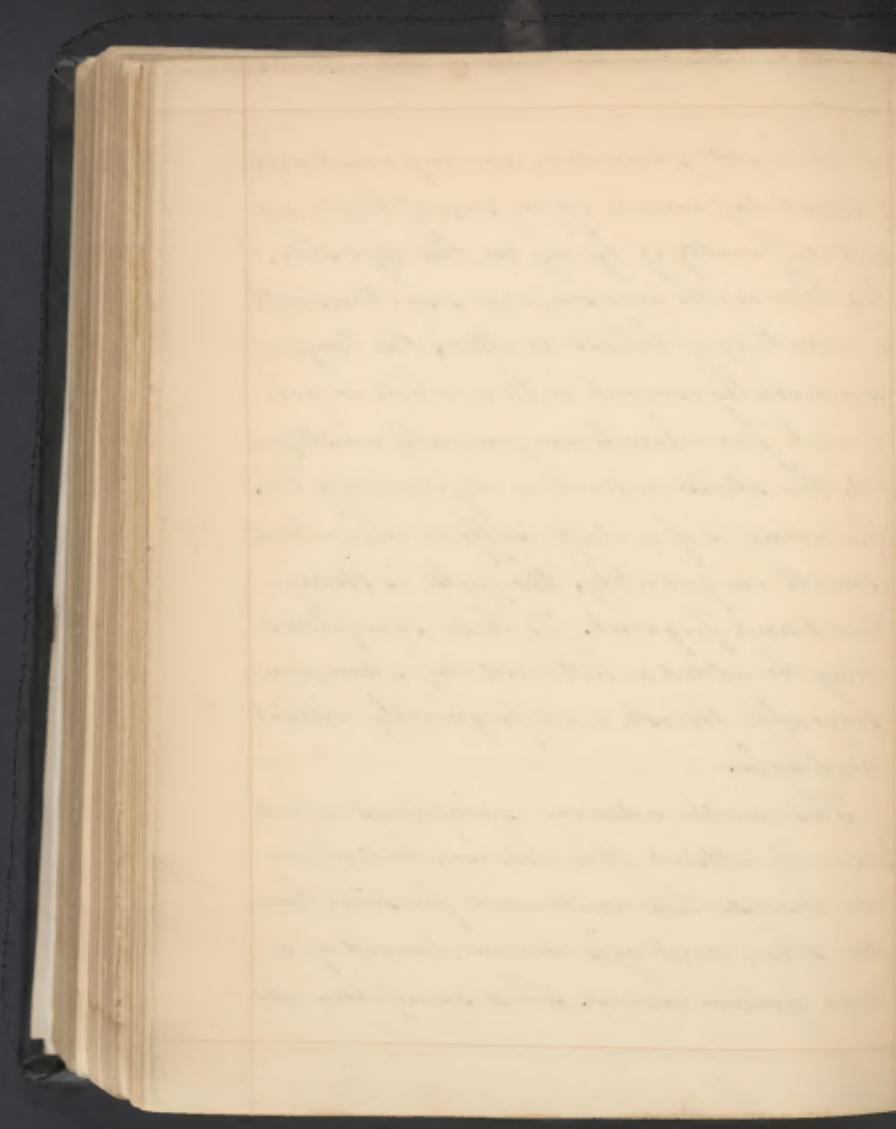
The inflammation of the liver is of two different kinds, the one acute, the other chronic.

Acute Hepatitis like other inflammations, is generally ushered in with some degree of shivering, followed by pain in the right Hypochondrium, increased by pressing upon the part, in some instances, a very small degree of pressure on the region of the liver, will cause exquisite pain; there is generally more or less pain



in the right shoulder, accompanied with a short dry cough, oppression of breathing and difficulty of lying on the left side, together with nausea, and sometimes with a vomiting of bilious matter, the tongue is generally covered with a white or yellowish fur—bowels are generally constipated, the stools indicate a deficiency of bile, the urine is of a deep saffron colour, and small in quantity, the pulse is strong, hard and frequent. To these symptoms may be added a hot and dry skin, considerable thirst, and frequently violent head-ache.

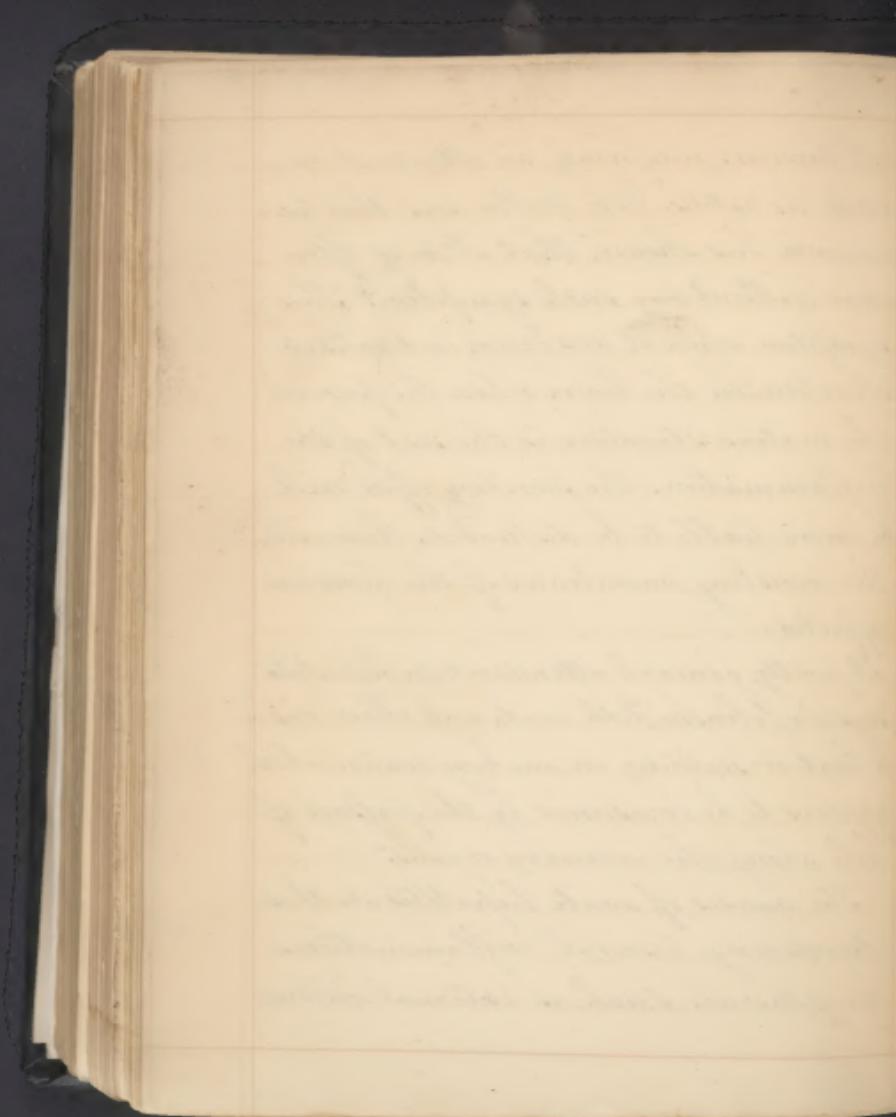
These are the ordinary symptoms which usually attend this disease, but when the disease has continued for some time, the skin and eyes become tinged of a deep yellow colour. This symptom is

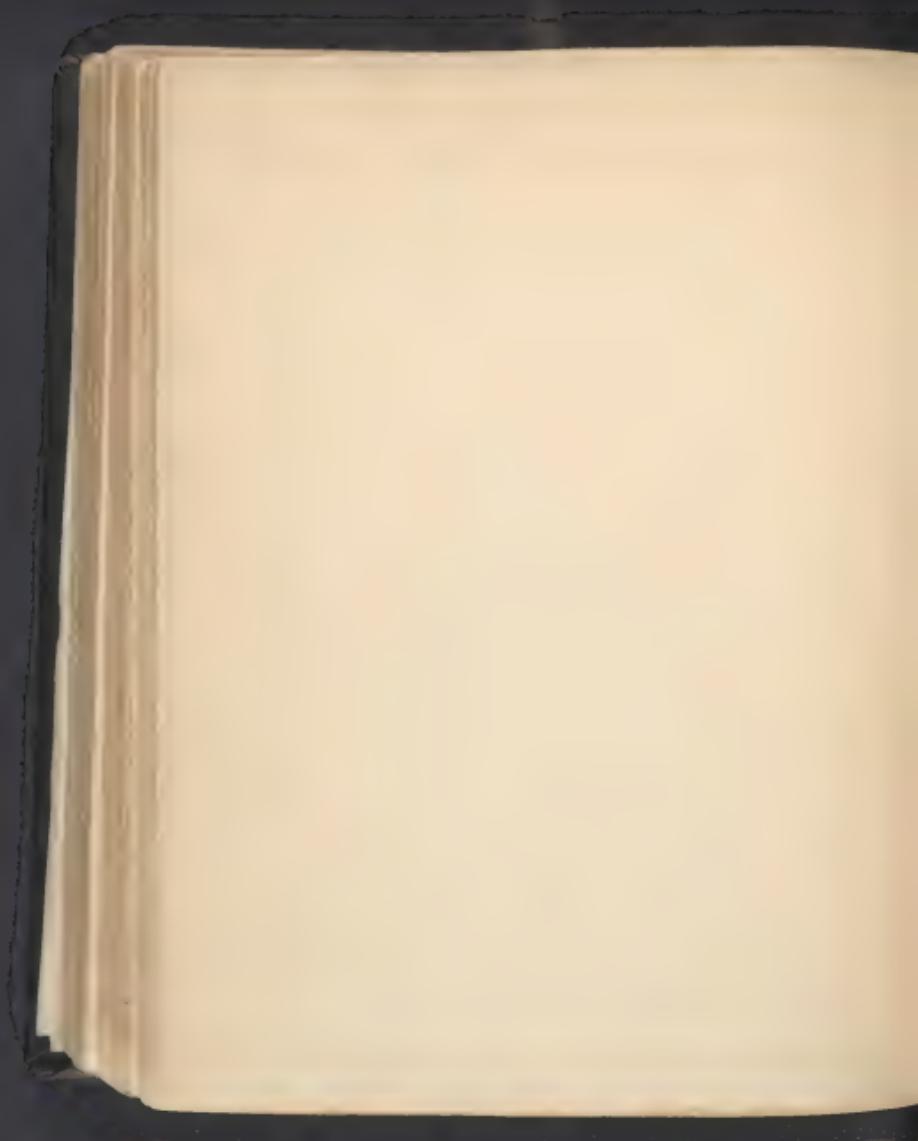


not, however, uniformly an attendant on acute Hepatitis. Dr Cullen says, that "experience has shown, that it may often occur without any such symptom." This symptom when it does occur, indicates obstruction in the liver, when the parenchymatous structure is the seat of the inflammation, the secretory office will be more liable to be disturbed, than when the investing membranes of the liver are affected.

A pretty general attendant on Hepatitis says Dr Johnson both acute and chronic is a heat or scalding in making water, which appears to be occasioned by the passage of bile along the urinary organs.

The causes of acute Hepatitis are those producing visceral inflammations in general, such as external violence





will be the general expectation the recent
election a victory for the movement
in the municipalities of recent origin
announced.

from pneumonia. From inflammation of the stomach, hepatitis may be distinguished by the absence of that gastric irritability and sensitibility, which render gastritis inflammation so distressing a complaint. The less prostration of strength, will also assist us, in hepatitis. To distinguish it from gastritis.

The inflammation of the liver, may terminate in different ways: by resolution, suppuration or gangrene. This last termination, however, is of rare occurrence; the disease sometimes also terminates in scrophulosis, in which the liver becomes swelled and hard. This termination, however, is a more frequent result of chronic hepatitis.

When hepatitis terminates by resolution, it is often attended with evacuations of different kinds. A hemorrhage sometimes occurs in nose, caused sometimes from the hemorrhoidal

recess. gives a station to the disease, and
increases a tenous diarrhoea, & it is sometimes
carried off by an evacuation of urine, deposit-
ing a column sediment.

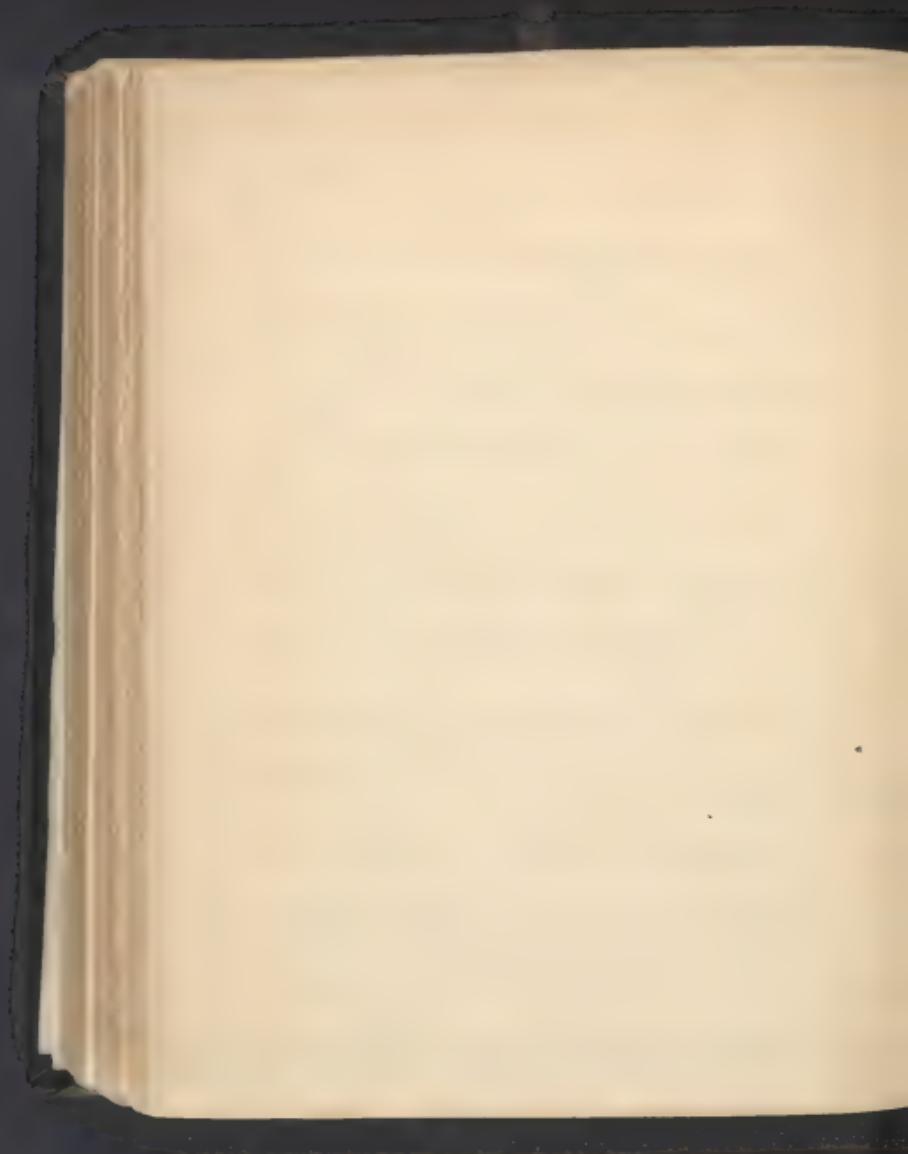
When the disease terminates in recuperation,
the inflammatory symptoms gradually subside,
and a new train develops themselves; the
symptoms are, permission of urine, or a deci-
pitated urine of a pusiferous or bubbling nature,
regions accompanying a inflammatory process,
but sometimes in the interval stage, in the
cesses, incitation may be still prominent.
The patient's strength is not restored by
ministrations, the bowels are very irregular, gen-
erally in a dysenteric state.

Adhesions are sometimes formed, between the
abdominal and the intestines, or between the abdome
and biliary ducts, a communication is estab-
lished, through which the urine, is, in fact excreted.

9

in intestines and is discharged by stool. If the
abcess point towards the stomach, there will be
great gastric irritability, and when the mat-
ter ^{is} excreted into ^{the} bowel, vomiting, ^{will} ^{be}
hurried ^{and} violent. ^{and} ^{the} ^{matter} ^{is} ^{dis-}
charged ^{with} ^{the} ^{stool}, ^{or} ^{excreted} ^{with} ^{it} ^{from}
the ^{stomach} ^{it} ^{is} ^{the} ^{most} ^{dangerous} ^{mode} ^{for} ^{the}
matter ^{to} ^{be} ^{discharged} as ^{it} ^{causes} ^{the} ^{ab-}
dominal ^{inflammation}.

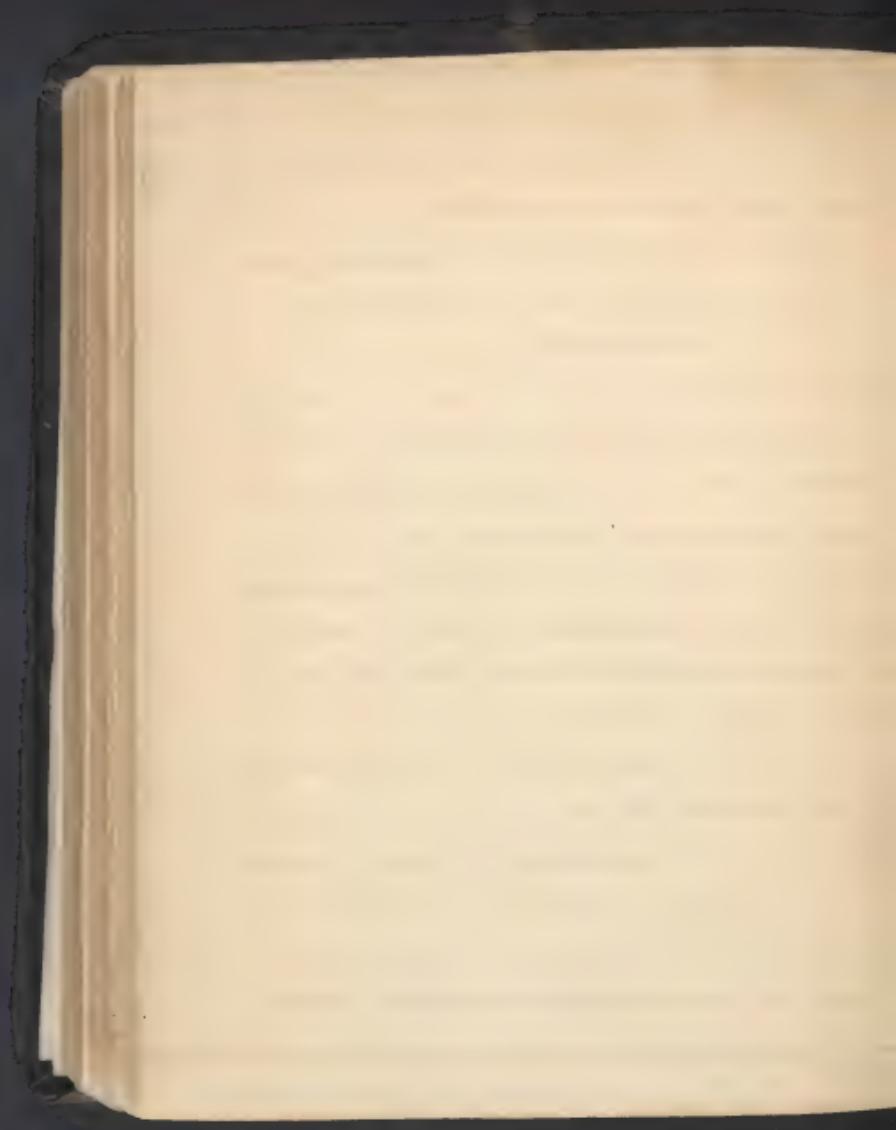
In ^{the} ^{discharge} ^{of} ^{the} ^{matter} ^{the} ^{stool} ^{is} ^{excreted}
the ^{water} ^{is} ^{coloured} ^{yellow} ^{and} ^{the} ^{stool} ^{is} ^{yellow} ^{and}
hard ^{to} ^{the} ^{touch}. ^{its} ^{colour} ^{is} ^{more} ^{or} ^{less}
dark ^{yellow} ^{than} ^{what} ^{is} ^{natural}, ^{and} ^{its}
membranes ^{are} ^{more} ^{or} ^{less} ^{coloured} ^{by} ^{inflamm-}
ation. ^{Dis} ^{sections} ^{which} ^{show} ^{that} ^{adhesive}
fibres ^{are} ^{the} ^{most} ^{common} ^{marks} ^{of} ^{the} ^{stool}



hence. But tubercles, as well as various casts
haemorrhaged, undulated, are sometimes found in it,
and it is also seen containing a considerable quan-
tity of pus, as are often found in its evolution:

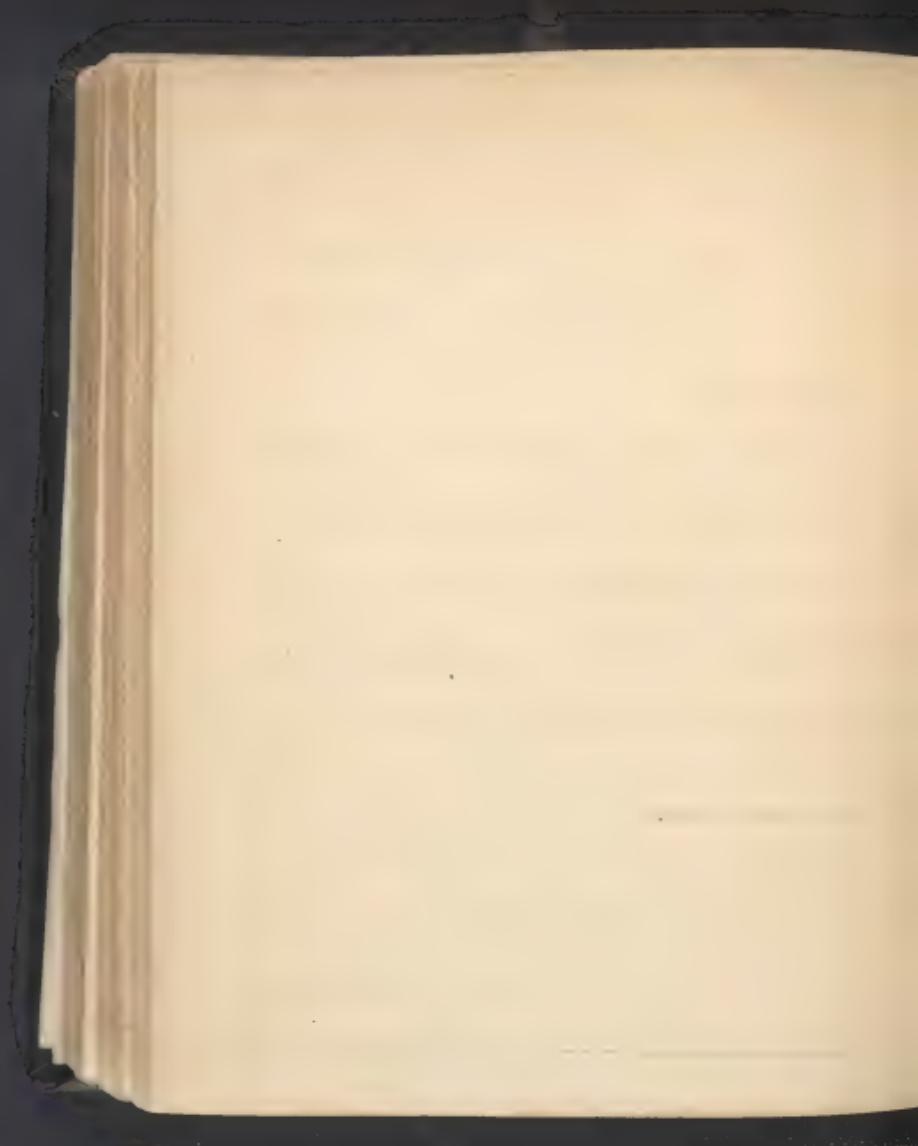
Treatment.

From the nature of the disease, vivid colors
is evidently the appropriate remedy. Batavian
cochineal should be selected for its deep
color. The quantity should always be im-
perceptible, so as to receive the color, or regulated
by the effect produced. As a general rule it
is recommended to take away from time to
time, according to vivid, and it should be ob-
served in the inflammatory action as it was not
to be hurried. The incision is best made
early at the commencement of acute rheumatism
and immediately it should incision, and
there is great danger of subincision, insuring
which is often one of fatal results.



case must be slender indeed. External venesection by means of cups or leeches, applied to the region of the liver will be likely to have a good effect. After full bleedings both general and topical a large blister should be applied over the affected part.

Fatherless are of much service and will be ever peculiar cures in diseases, are more valuable in this disease than others. Mercurial purgatives, reduce the power of exciting the functions of the liver, and are incident on liver calcareous, alitets. Hence their superiority over saline purgatives which operate principally on the islands of the mucous coat of the intestines. Calomel is usually employed. It may be given in doses of ten or fifteen grains. This is the ordinary dose when administered as a purgative. Dr. J. S. C. Garman's case was of ten doses of this medicina, remarkable



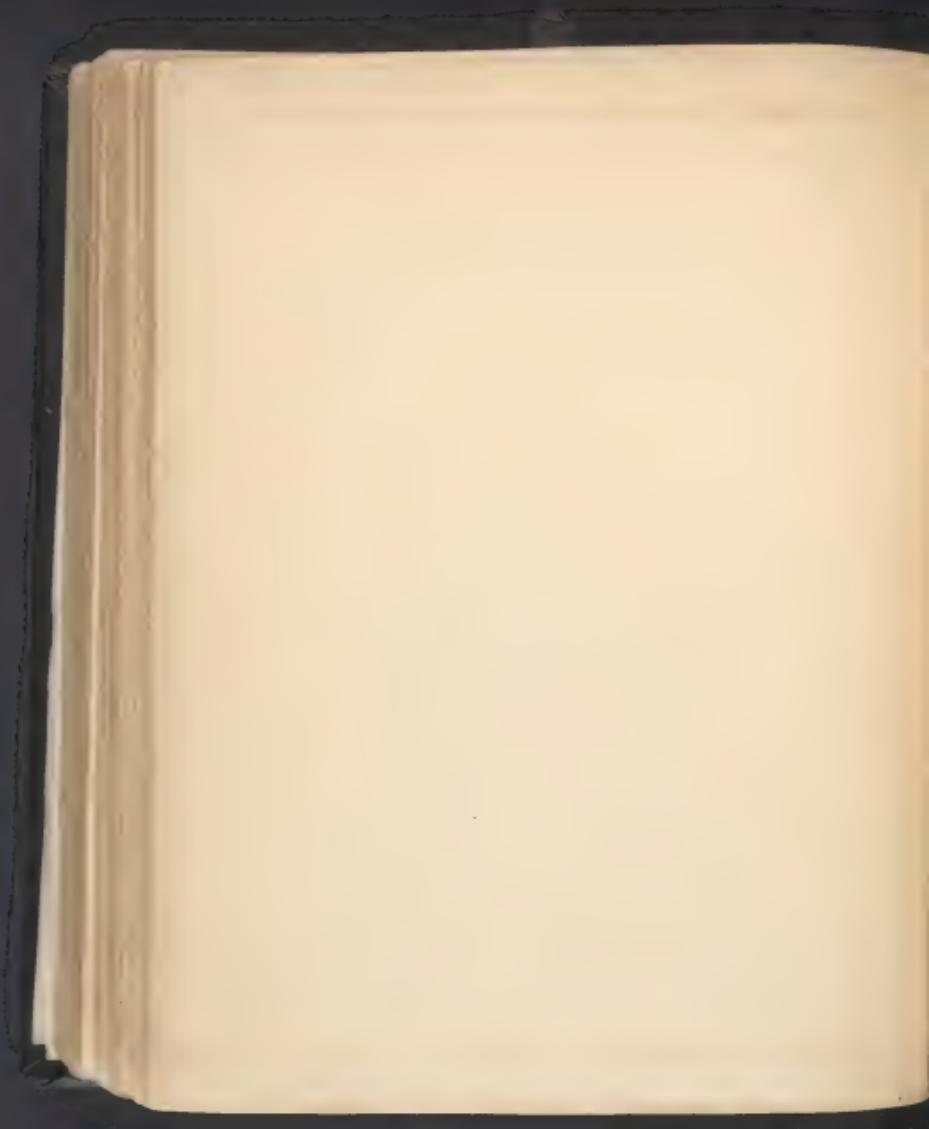
we commit a mistake in giving too small a quantity of it. Enriched vapourized action is the curative. The stomach and intestines is not so apt to be reacted by vomiting—the peristaltic vibration being more powerfully and completely. It is sometimes combined with the compound extract of colocynthia. Followed by cinna and salts, so as completely to clear the intestinal canal. Then the surface of the body becomes insatiated, with a view to promoting a mild diarrhoea; small doses of antimonial powders, may be administered in combination with calomel.

The diet in acute vegetables should consist of the most nutritious, ^{albula} even when in form animal food is to be strictly withheld from the patient. Thirst may be quenched by cooling aperients down, and cool air should be admitted into the apartment.

At the commencement of this disease, a man
harmistic plan is to be pursued, whenever
this mode of treatment the inflammation
symptoms are seen, evidently reduced. Moreover
it usually subsists for some time after
removal. The disease is a simple inflammation.

However, in human movements, that to
be removed is often to be gradually removed
in this case.

When we will be subject to a violent
stroke and the circulation becomes obstructed,
which is not a very uncommon phenomena
in a acute or violent or warm climate,
where the disease is a violent occurrence,
we should as soon as the absent veins
obstruction, when it does not have it to be
removed simultaneously of the affected
part. For the reason that the sanguous
vessels much in the part remaining, waiting



for the spontaneous opening of the abscess
not otherwise rises. That the natural
process of getting well is proportionable in-
creased by an early evacuation of the matter.
When the matter is discharged it soon un-
awares assumes alteration both in colour and
consistence. Dr. J. J. Gibon relates a case
where, a large quantity of watery, purulent
matter was discharged, when in a few days
became so changed in colour as to resemble
case - roundish. After the matter was discharged
the patient soon recovered by applying
it to the nose, and a nutritious diet.



Chronic Hepatitis

This disease may have an existence as a sequel of ill cured acute Hepatitis, or it may be caused by an intemperate use of disorderly spirits or other causes, producing the acute species.

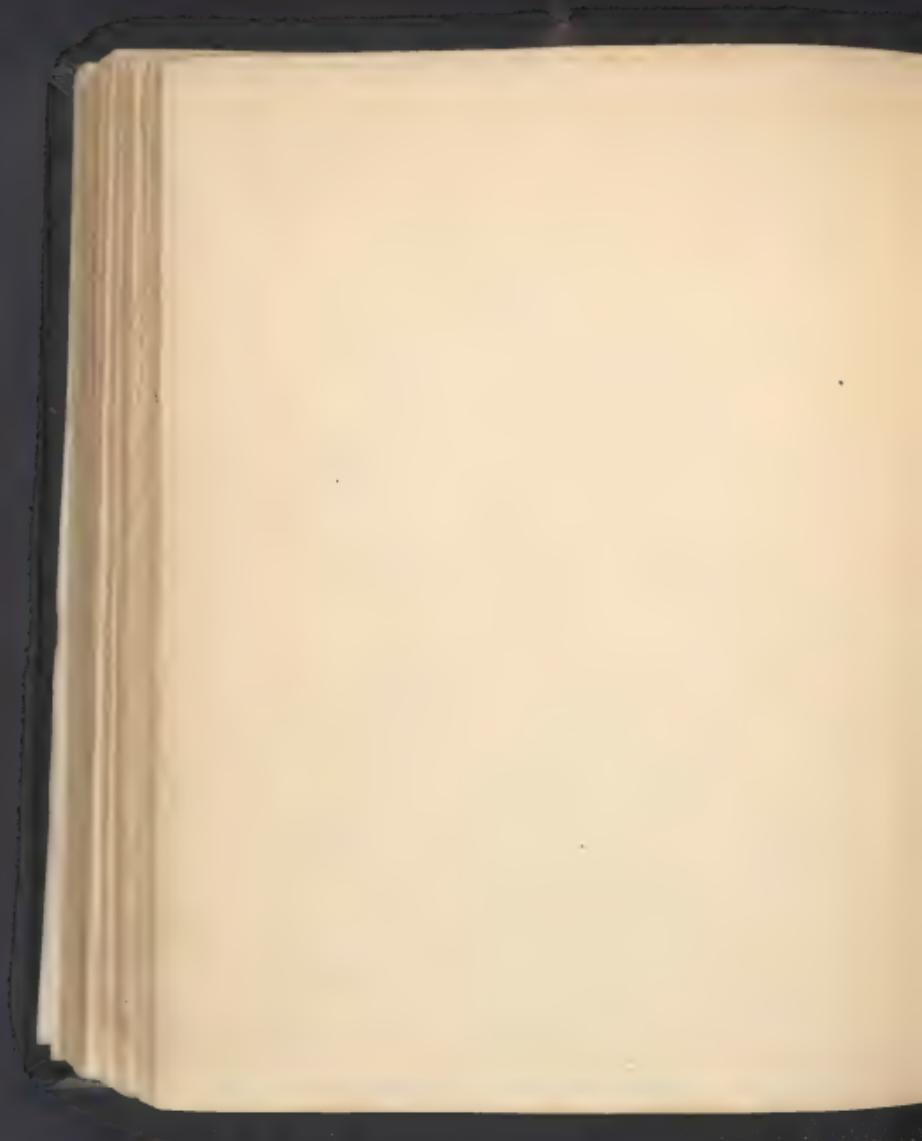
"It seems 'reversible'" says Dr. Cullen that the acute Hepatitis is always an affection of the external membrane of the liver, and that the parenchymatic is of the chronic kind.

Chronic Hepatitis is gradual in its approach, and is usually accompanied with a sallow complexion; the stomach is disordered; bowels constipated; stools clay colored; the patient is subject to an obtuse pain in the right hypochondrium, as in the acute species the pain is often extended up to the right scapula, or to the tip



of the right shoulder. the patient is also unable to lie easy on the left side-pulse is increased in frequency, and fuller than natural. sometimes it is hard and corded. a sense of weight is felt in the region of the liver. To these symptoms may be added difficulty of breathing, unpleasant sense of flatulency and distention of the stomach, acidity and pains in the stomach. Headach or giddiness. despondency of mind, and a gradual diminution of strength.

These symptoms in many cases of chronic inflammation of the liver, unfortunately, are so slightly marked, that they will not indicate to the patient, the dangerous disease under which he is labouring. Even hepatic abscesses have been discovered on dissection, which had given no inconvenience during life, nor were even suspected to exist though such abscesses



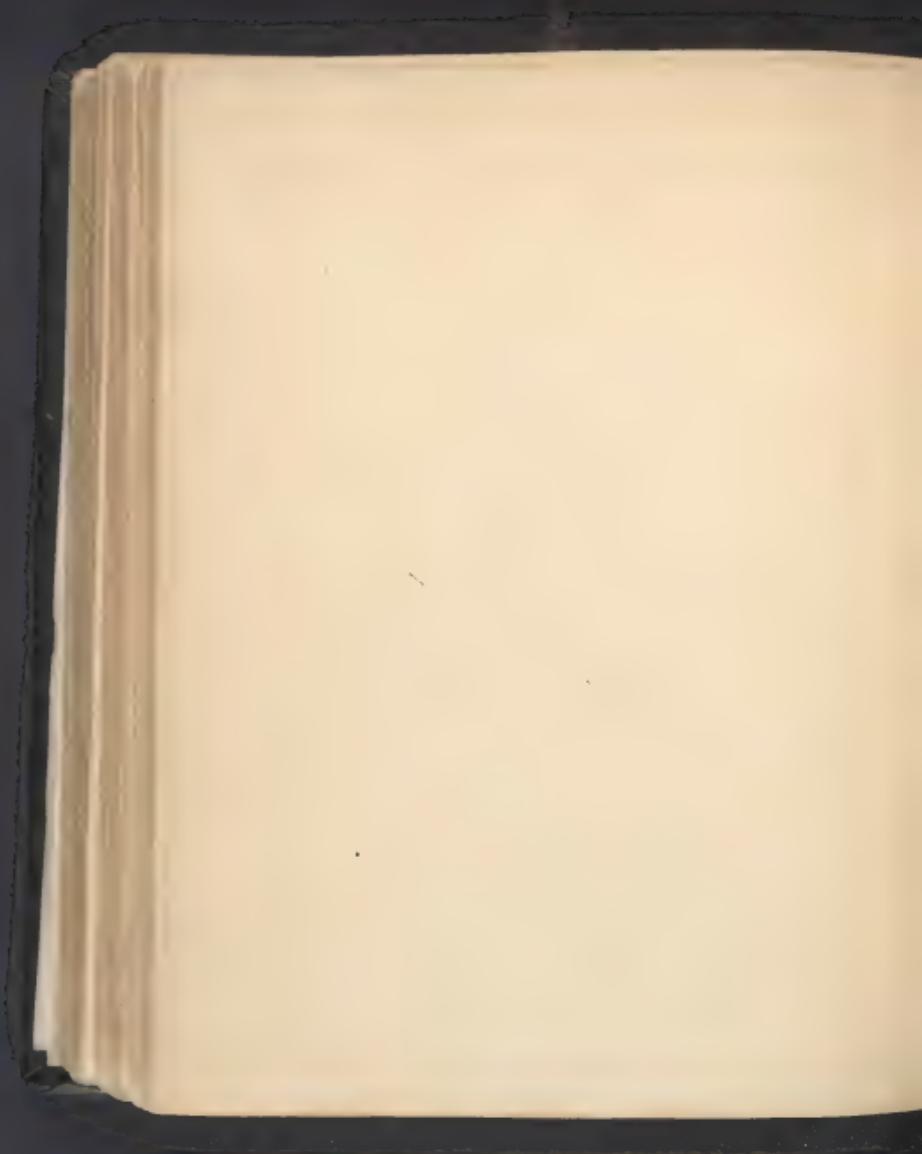
must have been the consequence of, previous and progressive inflammation. A carefull examination of the right hypochondriac region, will often enable us to ascertain the existence of the disease. The liver in most cases may be felt to be enlarged, with some degree of hardness, and also tenderness when pressure is made upon the organ, in conducting an examination. The patient should be placed in a horizontal position, his head should be drawn up, so as to relax the muscles of the neck, especially directing him to take a deep inspiration, the diaphragm will descend and the liver is easily discerned.

In the treatment of chronic inflammation of the liver, moderate bleeding may be lessened advantageously, with general and topical applications, the liver must be covered & kept



offending concrements by purgative medicines
A blister may be applied to the region of
the liver; also a seton is very useful.
Dr. Moore mentioned, at the Hospital, that
he found the application of a seton to
the region of the liver, in chronic hepatitis,
to be more efficient in removing
the pain and uneasy sensations than any
other remedy he had used.

In dandelion this acquired some reputation
in the treatment of chronic hepatitis. Dr.
Pemberton says, that he has seen great ad-
vantage result from using the extract in chronic
inflammation and incurable scirrhous
of the liver. The dose of the extract is about
a scruple, which may be given twice a day.
In dandelion may now be given in deco-
ction made in boiling an ounce of the root
not in a, but in water. It has a, just.



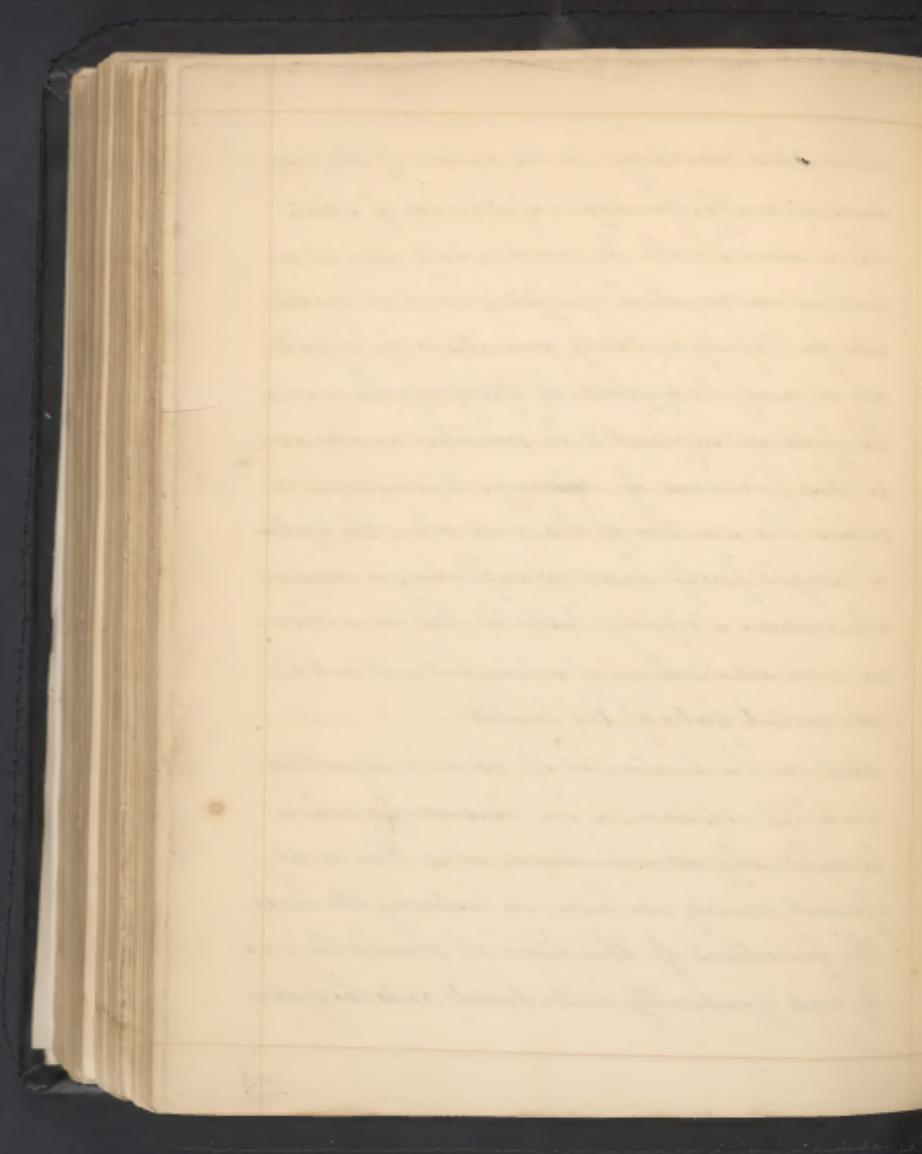
adding to the strained liquor, a drachm of the cream of tartar. This is the form in which it is usually employed. It may be given in the dose of a wine glass full, three times a day.

Gum ammoniac is a deobstruent, which has been given in chronic hepatitis; it was one of the remedies used by the late Dr. Willan in hepatic obstructions, but at present it appears to be very little employed under such circumstances. It is given in the dose of ten or fifteen grains.

In a remedy in chronic inflammation of the liver, the nitromuriatic acid has been recommended. It is applied externally in the shape of a bath. The proportion of the acids employed for the formation of the bath, are equal parts of each, of which an ounce is added to a gallon of warm water, increased or

diminished according to the nature of the case, and, especially, the degree of delicacy of skin. The mixture should be warmed, and used as a pediluvium "in which the feet should be continued for twenty or thirty minutes every night: or, it may be applied by sponging the surface. Its effects are supposed to be somewhat analogous to those produced by mercury. It sometimes increases the secretion of bile, and when the system is brought fairly under its influence, it occasionally induces a coppery taste in the mouth, and an increased discharge of saliva, but without the mercurial fater of the breath."

But in the treatment of chronic Hepatitis our chief reliance is on mercury, when judiciously administered, it is the most efficient remedy we have, in restoring the healthy functions of the liver: it should be gently and gradually introduced into the system



till a slight salivation is effected. The relief indeed (says Dr. Johnson) experienced in most cases of chronic Hepatitis the moment that mercury affects the mouth is truly surprising. The removal of all uneasy sensations from the side, the clearing up of the skin and countenance, the restoration of the natural evacuations, and in short, the removal of every complaint but debility, evince the powers of this remedy.

In some cases, it may, perhaps, be unnecessary to use mercury with a view of inducing salivation, after all other remedies have failed. An alterative effect of the blue pills, in some instances, may cure the disease, but when this fails, the system should be put under a slight mercurial impression.

